

EXTENDING THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

MAY 22 (legislative day, MAY 21), 1984.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DURENBERGER, from the Committee on Environment and
Public Works, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2701]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works reports an original bill (S. 2701), to extend the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, for one year and recommends that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Safe Drinking Water Act was enacted in 1974 for the purpose of protecting the public health from contaminants in drinking water. The Act establishes a framework for regulation of public water systems based on standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. The law also includes two provisions for protecting groundwater from contamination; a regulatory program restricting the underground injection of hazardous and non-hazardous waste and a sole source aquifer protection program.

The bill, reported by the Committee, would reauthorize the Safe Drinking Water Act, as now written, for a one-year period at a total level equal to the Committee's recommendation to the Budget Committee. Program levels are as follows:

Section 1442(f) (research & technical assistance)-----	\$25, 169, 300
Section 1443(a) (7) (State program grants)-----	\$28, 822, 500
Section 1443(b) (5) (underground injection control)-----	\$9, 092, 000

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

Since passage of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the serious and increasing problem of groundwater contamination has come to the attention of the American public and Congress. Random surveys of groundwater quality throughout the country have found a significant proportion of drinking water wells to be contaminated by synthetic

organic chemicals and other potentially harmful substances. The National Academy of Sciences found in 1981, that 34 States had reported serious cases of contamination of their drinking water supplies.

The Subcommittee on Toxic Substances and Environmental Oversight has held hearings during this session on the subject of groundwater contamination. Further hearings on this subject will be scheduled for later this year.

The Committee is currently considering legislation to regulate leaking underground storage tanks which have been identified as a major potential source of groundwater contamination. Also under consideration is the establishment of a Federal program for aquifer protection planning within the States.

While it is unlikely that new authority for the protection of groundwater can be developed and reported this year, the Committee wished to preserve this option. Therefore, the authorization for the Safe Drinking Water Act includes sufficient funds for the initiation of new programs to prevent further groundwater contamination from occurring.

HEARINGS

No hearings have been held on this bill. The Committee intends to hold hearings during this session to discuss the need for substantive amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

ROLLCALL VOTES

Section 7(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and the rules of the Committee on Environment and Public Works require that any rollcall votes taken during consideration of this bill be announced in this report.

There were no rollcall votes taken, the bill was ordered reported by voice vote.

EVALUATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT

In compliance with section 11(b)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee has evaluated the regulatory impact of the reported bills. The bill authorizes no new regulatory authority, and creates no new regulatory implications.

COST OF LEGISLATION

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act requires each report to contain a statement of the cost of the reported bill. That statement follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, D.C., May 10, 1984.

HON. ROBERT T. STAFFORD,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate,
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the attached cost estimate for a bill to extend the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, for one year.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,

ERIC HANUSHEK
(For Rudolph G. Penner, Director).

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE—COST ESTIMATE

MAY 10, 1984.

1. Bill number: Not yet assigned.
2. Bill title: A bill to extend the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, for one year.
3. Bill status: As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, May 8, 1984.
4. Bill purpose: This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$63.1 million in fiscal year 1985, of which \$25.2 million is for drinking water research, technical assistance, and training, \$28.8 million is for 75 percent matching grants to states for public water system supervision, and \$9.1 million is for 75 percent matching grants to states for ground-water protection.

The authorization levels specified in the bill are about \$8 million greater than the \$55 million appropriated to date for 1984, and \$7 million greater than the President's 1985 request.

5. Estimated cost to the Federal Government:

Authorization level:

Fiscal year:	Millions
1985	\$63.1
1986	---
1987	---
1988	---
1989	---

Estimated outlays:

Fiscal year:	
1985	41.4
1986	16.9
1987	4.0
1988	0.4
1989	0.4

The costs of this bill fall within budget function 300.

Basis of estimate: For purposes of this estimate, the entire amount authorized by the bill is assumed to be appropriated prior to the start of fiscal year 1985. Outlays are estimated based on information obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency and historical spending patterns for this program.

6. Estimated cost to State and local governments: It is estimated that states would receive grants of about \$23 million in 1985, \$12 million in 1986, \$2 million in 1987, and \$400,000 in 1988 and 1989. Based on the state matching requirement of 25 percent mandated by the Safe Drinking Water Act, states would have to spend an estimated \$12.6 million in order to receive those grants. State administrative costs are not expected to be substantial.

7. Estimate comparison: None.

8. Previous CBO estimate: None.

9. Estimate prepared by : Deb Reis.

10. Estimate approved by : C. G. Nuckols (For James L. Blum, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis).

CHANGE IN EXISTING LAW

In the opinion of the committee, it is necessary to dispense with the requirement of section 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate in order to expedite the business of the Senate.



AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR ENVIRONMEN-
TAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRA-
TIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1985

MAY 22 (legislative day, MAY 21), 1984.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DURENBERGER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2702]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, reports an original bill (S. 2702), to authorize appropriations for environmental research, development, and demonstrates for fiscal year 1985 and recommends that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT

As reported, the bill authorizes \$321,523,500 for fiscal year 1985 for the Environmental Protection Agency's research and development program. This funding level equals the total level recommended to the Budget Committee by the Committee on Environment and Public Works and is an increase of \$56,218,300 above the Administration's budget request for fiscal year 1985. During the previous three years, the Agency's environmental research and development program has sustained significant funding cuts. This program has been reduced more severely than any other program at the Agency. Yet it provides the information base for short-term regulatory decisionmaking and long-term studies into health and environmental impacts from contamination and control technologies. Therefore, reductions in this program will diminish the Agency's ability to fulfill their mandated responsibilities and effectively respond to anticipated environmental problems.

The Committee is concerned about the significant reductions in the research program and has conducted hearings on this subject. The Committee intends to develop substantive amendments to this bill later this year.

The authorization of \$321,523,500 is not broken down into specific functional categories. The Committee intends, at an early date, to

complete a review of specific programs to determine the adequacy of EPA's proposed research program to meet statutory requirements and react to emerging problems. Upon completion of this review, the Committee will recommend funding levels for individual programs.

In years past, the environmental research and development program has been authorized on a yearly basis. This short-term authorization has been particularly problematic in view of the budget fluctuations the program has experienced. It has resulted in uncertainties and shifts in emphasis in ongoing research activities, causing delays, loss of momentum, and wasted tax dollars. In view of the fact that productive research is a long-term activity which suffers from sudden shifts in direction, the Committee will explore the possibility of multi-year authorization for portions of EPA's research program.

HEARINGS

Hearings were held by the Subcommittee on Toxic Substances and Environmental Oversight in June and October, 1983 on the authorization of EPA's environmental research, development, and demonstration programs and funding needs.

ROLLCALL VOTES

Section 7(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and the rules of the Committee on Environment and Public Works requires that any rollcall votes taken during consideration of the bill be announced in this report. On May 8, 1983, the Committee reported the bill to authorize funding for EPA's environmental research, development and demonstration programs by voice vote.

EVALUATION OF REGULATORY IMPACTS

In compliance with section 11(b)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact of the reported bill.

The bill authorizes no new regulatory authority, removes no regulatory authority, and creates no new regulatory implications.

COST OF LEGISLATION

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act requires each report to contain a statement of the cost of the reported legislation prepared by the Congressional Budget Office. That statement follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, D.C., May 9, 1984.

HON. ROBERT T. STAFFORD,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the attached cost estimate for a bill to authorize appropriations for environmental research, development, and demonstrations for the fiscal year 1985.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,

ERIC HANUSHEK
(For Rudolph G. Penner, Director).

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE—COST ESTIMATE

MAY 9, 1984.

1. Bill number: Not yet assigned.
2. Bill title: A bill to authorize appropriations for environmental research, development, and demonstrations for the fiscal year 1985.
3. Bill status: As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, May 8, 1984.
4. Bill purpose: This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$322 million for fiscal year 1985 for the Environmental Protection Agency's research, development, and demonstration activities in ten program areas. Those areas are: air quality, water quality, drinking water, solid and hazardous waste (including Superfund), pesticide, radiation, interdisciplinary, toxic substance, energy and program management and support activities.

The authorized amount is \$86 million more than the \$236 million appropriated for these activities in fiscal year 1984 to date and exceeds the President's 1985 budget request by \$57 million.

5. Estimated cost to the Federal Government:

Authorization level:

Fiscal year:	Millions
1985	\$322
1986	-----
1987	-----
1988	-----
1989	-----

Estimated outlays:

Fiscal year:	
1985	151
1986	94
1987	48
1988	19
1989	10

The costs of this bill fall within budget function 300.

Basis of estimate: The authorization level is as stated in the bill and is assumed to be appropriated in full prior to the beginning of fiscal year 1985. Outlays are estimated based on historical spending patterns for these programs.

6. Estimated cost to State and local governments: None.
7. Estimate comparison: None.
8. Previous CBO estimate: None.
9. Estimate prepared by: Deb Reis.
10. Estimate approved by: James L. Blum, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

Section 12 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires publication of any changes made in existing law by the reported bill.

This bill makes no changes in existing law.